

Wood earns Eagle Award

W.B. Wood of the Crew and Thermal Systems Division will receive the Eagle Manned Mission Success Award next month for his quick-thinking and decisive action in developing the Extended Length General Purpose Cutter Tool used by the Mir 19 cosmonauts to unfurl an auxiliary solar panel.

Wood and his team designed, fabricated, tested and delivered a tool within six days of the initial request. The tool was shipped to the Russian Mir Space Station via *Atlantis* during STS-71. After *Atlantis* returned to Earth, the Mir 19 cosmonauts cut the tubing and unfurled the stuck solar array.

The Eagle Manned Mission Success Award, established in 1984, is presented annually in recognition of individuals or groups that make a significant contribution to manned space flight. The award was established through a gift to the National Space Club Scientific and Education Foundation in honor of the STS-51A crew.

Wood is the second JSC employee to be honored with this award. He will accept the award March 22 at the annual Goddard Memorial Dinner in Washington, D.C.

Beisert hangs plaque

Overcoming her fear of heights, Susan Beisert climbed the ladder to hang the STS-72 plaque in Mission Control on behalf of her Payload team and the Payload Thermal Engineering team.

The Payload team including, Roger Galpin, Mark Severance and Helen Dutton of the Operations Division and Jeff Larson, Lee Gonzales, Amie Allison, Jim Runke, Robert Grilli, Donna Stephenson, Don Settle and Susan Horelka of Rockwell worked with the Payload Thermal Team of Ray Serna of the Structures and Mechanics Division, Rick Miller Systems and Cargo Engineering Office and Cathy Rose of Rockwell,



Wood



Beisert



Cooper



Williams



McBarron



White

during the mission keeping a close eye on the six key temperatures of Japanese Space Flyer Unit. Each new orbit required a new set of data to warm thruster modules.

"We needed the redundant heater string to provide additional thermal control," said Bryan Austin, flight director. "Susan and team members spent the next 24 hours analyzing temperature and heater cycles."

Secretaries earn honors

Two secretaries recently earned the Marilyn J. Bocking Secretarial award for excellence.

Sherie Cooper of the Shuttle Engineering Office was recognized for her outstanding ability to handle complex and additional duties during a time of reorganization. Her positive attitude and rapport with the office staff make

her a valuable asset to the Engineering Directorate.

Sharon Williams of the Automation, Robotics and Simulation Division was recognized for her positive attitude and her performance under high pressure situations. Her initiative in handling administrative duties helps both managers and personnel perform their jobs and meet deadlines.

McBarron wins award

Jim McBarron of the Crew and Thermal Systems Division will receive the Arch T. Colwell Merit award later this month at the Society of Automotive Engineers International Congress.

McBarron, the co-author of "International EVA Systems Interoperability Status," was selected as one of 13 papers from more than 2,000

entries submitted to the award board.

The Arch Colwell award was established to recognize authors of outstanding papers presented at SAE meetings. Papers are judged for their value to existing knowledge of mobility engineering. McBarron will accept his award at the honors convocation Feb. 27 in Detroit.

Nurse named director

Ramona White of Kelsey-Seybold recently was elected director of the Texas State Association of Occupational Health Nurses board.

An active member of the Bay Area Chapter, White ran for state office this fall and will assume duties of director of awards, correspondence and benevolence. White has worked in the Occupational Health Clinic for the past 28 years.

JSC People

Road repairs continue around JSC

On-site street repairs continue at JSC with new roads reopening and others closing to continue the repavement process.

These projects have been carefully planned to minimize the impact to JSC occupants and visitors. As street repairs progress, temporary alternate routes have been opened, allowing personnel to complete their trips around JSC.

"The road surface failures approaching the intersection of Avenue B from the south and Second Street is next to be replaced," said Ronald Stone of JSC's Construction Office. "It will be performed working half of the street at a time. This work should be completed in early February, but road work schedules are always dependent on weather conditions.

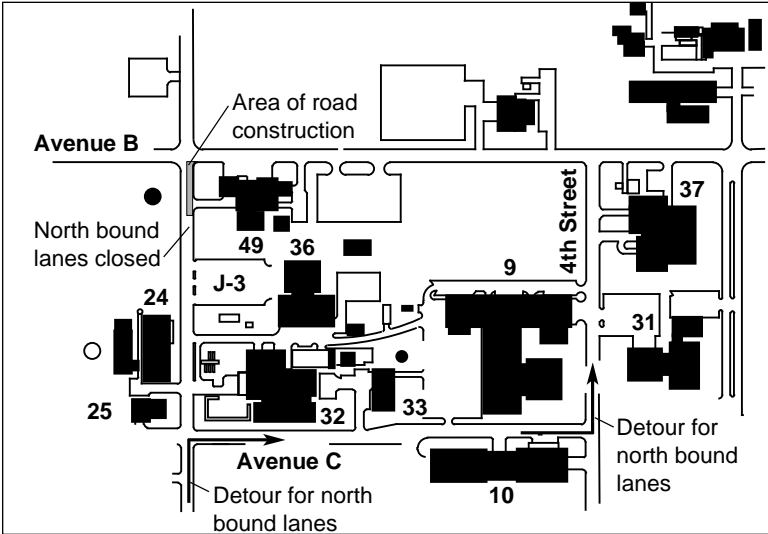
"Weather is our big concern due to the impact to vehicle traffic and challenging conditions for pedestrians. Everyone has been very cooperative about the inconvenience of this construction work and we appreciate it. Our goal is to cause the least problem to the site personnel and complete the contract on time," Stone added.

Stone urged employees to be more cautious when driving through congested construction areas. Follow directions and signs given by traffic directors and markings.



JSC Photo by Benny Benevides

As workers complete road construction on one street at JSC, engineers prepare to close off portions of Second Street at Avenue B to begin repairs. Employees will be detoured to Avenue C and Fourth Street until the pavement is repaired. The parking lot in front of Bldg. 36 will remain open during the construction.



Station module in testing stages

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undergo mechanical installation in May and begin pressure tests in July. The habitat module is among the last pieces for launch in 2002.

Boeing also is building an airlock module for the station. Welding on the airlock has begun and will be completed in June. Once the airlock

is built, it will mark the completion of welding of every major structural component being built by Boeing.

NASA's international partners also are making progress on their hardware. The critical Russian-built Functional Cargo Block is on schedule for launch on a Proton vehicle in November 1997. In December 1995,

the FGB experienced a pressure test failure. Khrunichev, the Russian subcontractor building the FGB had seen this anomaly in prior modules similar to the FGB. Recently, Khrunichev completed repairs and carried out the pressure test successfully. The FGB is back on schedule.

Tuskegee airman Carter to discuss black history at Gilruth

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The Tuskegee Airmen made history during World War II, not only for African Americans, but for all Americans. The Tuskegee Airmen, an all black escort unit, served in the Army Air Corps during World War II. The 332nd Fighter Group, consisting of the 99th, 100th, 301st, and 302nd fighter squadrons, became the flying escort for heavy bombers. The group became famous because it was the only Army Air Force fighter group that never lost an escorted bomber to enemy planes. Although the Tuskegee Airmen did not set out to be in the annals of American history, these brave young men served, fought and died for their

country because they were proud to be Americans and because they wanted the same rights, privileges and opportunities of other Americans.

The Tuskegee Airmen were founded as a result of legislation enforced by the Civilian Pilot Training Act, passed on April 3, 1939. The act gave African Americans the opportunity to train as pilots and a chance to prove that they could learn to fly. The law, however, did not grant them acceptance as military pilots in the Army Air Corps. On July 19, 1941, the first 13 cadets at Tuskegee Army Air Base began military pilot training. A total of 992 pilots graduated from the Tuskegee Army Air

Base. The 99th Fighter Squadron's first combat assignment took place on June 2, 1943. The assault on Pantelleria caused the Italian island to surrender on June 11, 1943. For the first time in history, air power alone had completely destroyed all enemy resistance. The 332nd Fighter Group flew 1,578 missions, destroyed or damaged more than 950 vehicles on the ground and 400 enemy aircraft, and sank a German destroyer. The 332nd Fighter Group received three Distinguished Unit Citations.

Many Tuskegee airmen became successful leaders. Among the most outstanding graduates of Tuskegee was Daniel "Chappie"

James, the first African American appointed a four-star Air Force general. Carter and the other Tuskegee Airmen have opened many doors for today's African Americans and for generations to come. Their contributions have made an impact on U. S. history and the U.S. space program—they were among the forerunners to NASA's African American engineers, scientists and astronauts. It is the spirit of the Tuskegee Airmen and others like them in America's black history that will be observed during the Feb. 12 program.

All JSC employees are invited to attend. The meal is \$8.50 per person. For more information, call Patricia Burke at x30606.